not force the government to capitulate. It would be limited to only a few plants and would weaken the workers by diverting their attention from their real goal—assembling forces for the final armed revolt.

The same arguments prevailed during the next two days when workers in Kharkov, Moscow, Reval, and many other cities had already laid down their tools. On October 11, some thirty thousand workers came to the University. The main hall was assigned to railroad employees. After the report of the convention's delegates about their negotiations with Witte, the Prime Minister, the meeting unanimously decided to join the all-Russian railroad strike. This was the affair of the railroaders, however, and did not affect the agitation in other meetings against a general strike.

I was strolling from one meeting to another in the University when a medical student came running up to me. I was asked to come to the Military Medical Academy. The crowd in its large amphitheater was surprisingly homogeneous—all workers from the next precinct. They asked me whether they should join the general strike. Since I did not know the answer, I sent a messenger to party headquarters for instructions and meanwhile called on representatives of the plants to report on the local situation.

My messenger returned with a note: "The Committee is in session. Instructions will follow in half an hour."

Meanwhile the local people were making their reports: "Our workers have made up their minds. Whatever the parties decide, they will strike. . . ." "Everyone will surely join. . . ." And so it went on and on.

Seated at the chairman's table, in the pit of the amphitheater, I watched the faces turned toward it. No doubt, no hesitation—the same expression of firm decision and exaltation on all.

It was close to midnight. The audience waited for words that would summarize its feelings. "Your turn, Comrade Petrov," called the chairman. I no longer needed a directive. "What can I add, comrades? The decision has been made. The general strike is on. This is the hour!"

As I spoke, a young man rushed to the chair and handed a note to the chairman. He read it, reached out to pass it to me, then put it aside. No resolution was voted after my speech. The crowd applauded. The chairman closed the meeting and handed me the note. I read:

"Committee of the RSDWP, Bolshevist Faction. Instruction to speakers: Discuss the pros and cons of the general strike."

The strike was proclaimed in St. Petersburg on October 12 and almost at once became complete.